

between the government and the designated institution.

It is important to note that South Korea, for some time, has been working diligently, behind the scenes, without much publicity or due recognition, in order to enhance the security of the North Korean refugees it is seeking to assist.

The aim is to make all refugees and their families self-sufficient within the context of democracy and free enterprise, so that they can be full contributors to South Korean society. In this regard, the South Korean government also works in collaboration with many civic, religious, and non-governmental (charitable) organizations in a comprehensive and coordinated effort to provide a variety of resources and a strong social safety net.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my personal appreciation to the government and people of South Korea for their important contributions to help address the urgent humanitarian crisis in North Korea through the "firm resettlement" policy. As a staunch ally of the United States with a mutually comprehensive alliance partnership, South Korea deserves our recognition and expression of support.

HONORING DR. ANA CRUZ

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my constituent, Dr. Ana Margarita Cruz on having been named Florida Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. I would like to thank her for all the hard work it took to receive this prestigious honor. Dr. Cruz's commitment to education, specifically higher education is very commendable.

Dr. Cruz's area of expertise lies in area of business management, accounting and taxes. She has a diverse background and has been employed in both the private and public sector. Dr. Cruz's extensive experience and qualifications in the field of business have been recognized, as she is currently the Interim Chair for the School of Business at Miami-Dade College for the Wolfson Campus.

As a former educator I understand the importance of an education and the impact a teacher can have on a student's life. I am pleased Dr. Cruz chose such a noble profession, shaping the vision and spirit of the leaders of tomorrow. Once again I would like to offer my warmest congratulations on this tremendous accomplishment. I would encourage Dr. Cruz to continue the efforts that have brought her so far and allowed her to touch the lives of so many.

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION ACT

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as I am sure you are aware, this week kicks-

off the enrollment period for the newest benefit available to Medicare recipients, the Prescription Drug Benefit Plan. This benefit allows seniors to continue to purchase their prescriptions, but at a major cost savings. For those seniors currently without drug coverage, or looking for better coverage, this option will be a welcome help in addressing their rising pharmaceutical costs. Extra help will be available for those who need it, and a choice of plans will be available for seniors to pick the one that best meets their needs. The new plans will cover both brand name and generic drugs at participating pharmacies. I encourage all Medicare recipients to take time to learn about the new benefit, talk it over with family and friends, and consider how it can help them pay for their prescription drug needs.

Beginning January 1, 2006, Medicare eligible seniors will be able to begin benefiting from the optional drug benefit program in which they will receive prescription drugs at a 75 percent discount. Once they spend \$3,600 annually, they will save 95 percent on all drug costs. Economically needy seniors will be eligible for additional assistance. Medicaid recipients will begin to receive drugs through Medicare.

Medicare recipients should review available drug plans as soon as possible. With a broad selection of plans available, seniors are encouraged to review and pick a plan that best suits their needs. In order to assist seniors make this important decision, Medicare has created a call line and website. Seniors should feel free to contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE or www.medicare.gov in order to aid them in making the best possible choice.

Another great new feature of the Medicare Modernization Act, which included the Prescription Drug Benefit, is the new preventative services offered to all Medicare recipients. Medicare now covers a free initial physical exam for all new beneficiaries. Beneficiaries are also encouraged to partake in the free glaucoma, breast, cervical, colorectal, and prostate cancer screening, as well as cholesterol, blood lipid, diabetes, and osteoporosis screenings. The preventative screenings and new disease management programs are a way for seniors to be proactive in their healthcare, so as to maintain a high quality of life throughout retirement.

The Prescription Drug Benefit and the preventative services program are important steps in realizing the government's 40-year-old promise to make quality health care available to every eligible senior in the United States. I am proud to have voted for the Medicare Modernization Act in 2003, and am proud of the cost savings it will provide for all Seniors.

RECOGNIZING THE TITAN ROCKET

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of those individuals that developed and built on an exemplarily piece of American ingenuity and technological achievement, the Titan rocket.

For nearly fifty years the Titan rocket system has been serving this country, first as a multi-stage intercontinental ballistic missile

system, and second as a launch vehicle for satellites, and space probes bound for the far reaches of our solar system.

In 1955 Martin Marietta, now Lockheed Martin, was awarded a contract by the Air Force to build an intercontinental ballistic missile that became known as Titan I. Since then, the people of Lockheed Martin have produced successive generations of Titan rockets to serve national needs.

On Wednesday, October 19, 2005, the last Titan rocket was successfully launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. From its early beginnings as an intercontinental ballistic missile, to its recent role as a launch vehicle for the satellites of the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office, the Titan rocket has played a vital role in the security of our Nation.

The Titan family of rockets also played a pivotal role in the Nation's space program, allowing the early Gemini astronauts to break free of the earth's gravitational hold and launching many deep space probes that have furthered understanding of our solar system.

Mr. Speaker, the longevity of the Titan's service is a testament to the quality of the employees at Lockheed Martin. Thousands of workers have had a hand in producing the rockets, including many second generation family members located in my district. To honor their dedication and superb accomplishments I rise to recognize the fifty years of service the Titan rockets and the employees that built them have given our Nation.

HURRICANE REGULATORY RELIEF
ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3975, the Hurricane Regulatory Relief Act of 2005. As many of you know, a key component of the Gulf Coast hurricane relief and recovery effort is flexibility and adaptability. Entire communities have been uprooted by these unprecedented natural disasters, and bureaucratic red tape must not stand in the way of efforts to rebuild the region. H.R. 3975 bill emphasizes much-needed regulatory relief to help the students, schools, workers, families, and communities affected by the hurricanes. The bill seeks to achieve this goal by prioritizing educational services for displaced students over bureaucratic hurdles. To this end, for one year, the bill would ease requirements for elementary and secondary schools, including:

Maintenance of effort and supplement not supplant funding requirements. Easing these requirements would ensure states and schools can serve students effectively with the resources available. In addition, the bill would allow non-federal match requirements to be waived or modified for affected states.

Deadlines for special education evaluations and reporting requirements. By extending—but not waiving—these deadlines, states and schools would have the flexibility they need to ensure the affected students will have access to the services they need. In addition, the bill expands opportunities for quality teachers to serve displaced students. For example, for

one year, the bill would allow teachers that met the "highly qualified" standard in an affected state to be considered "highly qualified" in other states that are serving large numbers of displaced students where they may temporarily be teaching. In addition, the bill would expand the new individuals with Disabilities Education Act Paperwork Reduction Pilot Program to states affected by the hurricanes. This will further erase burdensome paperwork requirements on special education teachers.

Among other positive aspects, the bill also strengthens financial aid opportunities for affected students by expand outreach efforts to ensure disadvantaged students and families have access to information about financial aid that may be available as they pursue higher education. It requires colleges and universities to adjust financial aid award calculations through the Expected Family Contribution (EFC), taking into account changes in families' financial circumstances caused by the hurricanes. Further more, the bill would encourage institutions of higher education to ease the process for displaced students to transfer the academic credits they have earned and continue their studies as the region rebuilds.

In closing let me note that I strongly, support the idea of prioritizing children who have been impacted by the recent hurricanes. To this end I have been working on a proposal that seeks to achieve the goal of taking care of our children. It goes without saying that children respond differently to disasters, depending on their understanding and maturity, but it's easy to see how an event like Hurricanes

Katrina and Rita could leave a child feeling a good deal of anxiety. Kids who lived in the track of the hurricanes felt firsthand the threat of danger to themselves and those they care about. Now that the danger has passed, it's important to comfort them and reassure them that they're safe. It's also important to be open and honest with them in discussing unseen consequences of the hurricane for the family.

My proposal would prioritize children by requiring that the children who lost 1 or both parents or a guardian as a result of Hurricane Katrina and Rita should be provided with all necessary assistance, services, and benefits and urging Federal, State or local agencies responsible for providing such assistance, services and benefits to move expeditiously in providing such assistance, services and benefits to those children.

In addition, her proposal would further prioritize children by requiring that the children who lost 1 or both parents or a guardian as a result of Hurricane Katrina and Rita should be provided with such immediate assistance, services, and benefits for which they are eligible and which are necessary for their well-being, including:

- (1) foster care assistance;
- (2) adoption assistance;
- (3) medical, nutritional, mental and psychological care;
- (4) educational services; and
- (5) such additional care or services as may be necessary.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE
THAT NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF
APPEALS INFRINGED ON PAREN-
TAL RIGHTS

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SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to H. Res. 547, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives "that the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit deplorably infringed on parental rights in *Fields v. Palmdale School District*."

I oppose this resolution, because I believe the legislative branch ought not to intercede in the matter at this time. It is premature for Congress to take a position on the court's ruling, because the issue has not yet been definitively decided by the judicial branch. *Fields v. Palmdale School District* is an ongoing legal matter that is being addressed by the judicial branch. The legislative branch's action to pre-judge the decision infringes on the separation of powers in the Constitution and is an unnecessary usurpation of the judicial branch's role.

Should Republican leaders choose to continue bringing to the floor of the House of Representatives resolutions that criticize decisions of the courts, they should wait until the U.S. Supreme Court has issued a final decision.